

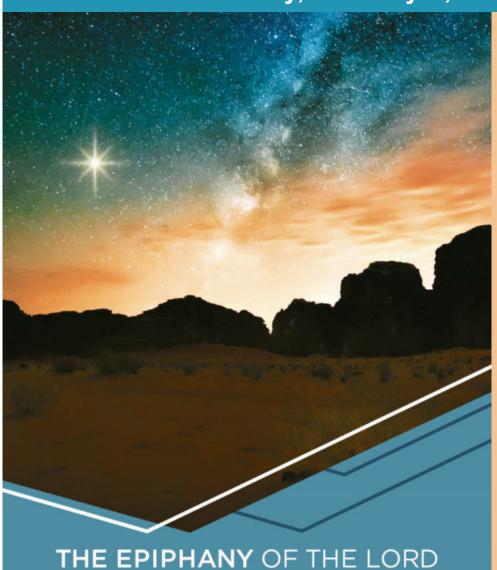
Saint Thomas Becket

A Welcoming Spirit-led Catholic Community where each is called

to love, to serve and to be hope

"Your Spiritual home, where each is called by name."

Sunday, January 2, 2022



They were overjoyed at seeing the star, and on entering the house they saw the child with Mary his mother. They prostrated themselves and did him homage.

Then they opened their treasures and offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. - Mt 2:10-11

Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass ≤2001, 1998, 1970 CCD.

CONTACT US:

4455 South Robert Trail Eagan, MN 55123

Phone: (651) 683-9808 Fax:(651) 683-0361

parish@stbeagan.org

VISIT US:

Parish Office Hours:

M/T/W/TH 9:00 am - 3:00 pm Friday 9:00 am - 1:00 pm

Lord's Day Masses: All Are Welcome See website for current information.

PARISH STAFF:

Pastor:

Fr. Tim Wozniak Ext. 104

Weekend Assistant:

Fr. Mike Erlander

Business Administrator: Karen Maza Ext. 100

Music Director:

Chris Ángel Ext. 107

Liturgical Ministry Coord & RCIA: Jackie Graham Ext. 110

Pastoral Care:

Deacon Mickey Friesen Ext. 112

Director of Faith Formation: Mary McDonald Ext. 108

> Director of Outreach and Confirmation: Dez Sobiech Ext. 109

Coordinator Middle School Faith Formation Lori Skare Ext. 111

Office Manager: Becky Olson Ext. 102

Communications Associate: Monica Lopez Ext. 101

Evening Receptionist: Kevie Skogh Ext. 102

Safe Environment Coord: Pam Magyar Ext. 103

Director of Strategic Planning: Kevin Magyar, Ext. 106

Maintenance:

Dave Schelitzche Ext. 105

ONLINE:

www.stbeagan.org

Bulletin & Calendar Like Us on FACEBOOK

CONFESSIONS:

Call parish office for appointment

Welcome!

a Catholic Community Where ALL are Welcome.

To New Parishioners: If you do not have a church home, we would be honored to have you as part of our parish family. Registration Forms are available at the New Parishioner Welcome Kiosk in the Commons, and online or call our Office at (651) 683-9808, and we will help you out.

Baptism: All parents are asked to attend a baptism preparation meeting prior to the baptism of their child. Please register online; if you have questions call the parish office at (651) 683-9808.

Next baptism preparation meeting is <u>Tuesday</u>, <u>January 4</u>, <u>2022</u> at 6:15 p.m.

Marriage: Registered parishioners should contact the Office at least eight months prior to requested date.

Anointing of the Sick: Available to anyone who is seriously ill or suffering from a prolonged illness. Call Parish Office at (651) 683-9808.

Faithful Shepherd Catholic School and Tri-Parish Center: www.fscsmn.org or call 651-406-4747

Readings

January 2, 2022

Sunday: Is 60:1-6/Ps 72:1-2, 7-8, 10-11, 12-13 [cf.11]/

Eph 3:2-3a, 5-6/Mt 2:1-12

Monday: 1 Jn 3:22—4:6/Ps 2:7bc-8, 10-12a/Mt 4:12-17,

23-25

Tuesday: 1 Jn 4:7-10/Ps 72:1-2, 3-4, 7-8/Mk 6:34-44

Wednesday: 1 Jn 4:11-18/Ps 72:1-2, 10, 12-13/Mk 6:45-52

Thursday: 1 Jn 4:19—5:4/Ps 72:1-2, 14 and 15bc, 17/

Lk 4:14-22a

Friday: 1 Jn 5:5-13/Ps 147:12-13, 14-15, 19-20/

Lk 5:12-16

Saturday: 1 Jn 5:14-21/Ps 149:1-2, 3-4, 5 and 6a and 9b/

Jn 3:22-30

Next Sunday: Is 42:1-4, 6-7/Ps 29:1-2, 3-4, 3, 9-10 [11b]/

Acts 10:34-38/Lk 3:15-16, 21-22

or, Is 40:1-5, 9-11/Ps 104:1b-2, 3-4, 24-25, 27-28, 29-30 [1]/Ti 2:11-14; 3:4-7/Lk 3:15-16, 21-22

Prayers for the Sick

Please hold these parishioners in your prayers:

Karen Little Mary Cloutier Judy Schmidt

Lisa LaFrance Janet Higgins

If you have someone you would like added to our confidential Prayer Line call Cathy at 651-344-3350.

Care notes

Our display for our Care Notes has moved. Next to the stairs. Make sure that you look for it and take a Care Note or two home with you, we have many topics for you to choose from.

Calendar

Monday, January 3:

Parish Office CLOSED

GS Troop 19026, 6:00 pm - 7:00 pm

Tuesday, January 4:

Baptism Prep, 6:15 pm - 7:15 pm Troop 451, 6:30 pm - 8:30 pm AA meeting, 7:00 pm - 8:00 pm

Wednesday, January 5:

Middle School FF, 7:00pm - 8:00pm offsite FMSC

Thursday, January 6:

Mass, 10:00 am - 11:00 am

Council Meeting, 5:45 pm - 8:00 pm Al-Anon meeting, 7:00 pm - 8:00 pm

Friday, January 7:

No Event Scheduled

Saturday, January 8:

Food Shelf Weekend

Women's Retreat, 9:00 am - 12:00 pm

5:00 pm MASS, Fr. Mike

Sunday, January 9:

Food Shelf Weekend

SGS at 9am &11am Masses

9:00 am Mass, Fr. Tim (Deacon Mickey preaches)

RCIA 10:15 am - 11:30 am 11:00 am MASS, Fr. Tim

Baptism 12:30 pm

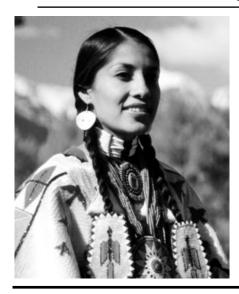
Confirmation Red: student/parent orientation,

1:00 pm - 2:30 pm

Confirmation Blue, 6:00 pm - 7:30 pm

Friendly Reminder

If you choose to continue wearing a face mask to church, please don't forget to bring your own face mask. Thank You!



Save the Date:

Thursday, <u>January 20</u>, 2022 6:00 pm - 8:30 pm

HAVE YOU SEEN THIS WOMAN?

Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women. What is happening in MN to address this crisis?

Presented by Sen. Mary Kunesh Sponsored by STB Spirit of Justice Ministry

Watch the bulletin for further details.

The Racial Wealth Gap Part 3 of 4

This past fall, a small group of parishioners participated in a Just Faith Ministries Faith & Racial Justice program (8 weeks), sponsored by our STB Faith in Action Council. We wanted to share with the wider parish group one of the key learnings from the program.

DID YOU KNOW There is a Racial Wealth Gap in the U.S....AND..... 13 PUBLIC Policies have been found to be contributing factors? We will share all 13 with you over the next 4 weeks. Policies 1 & 2 follow. All 13 can be viewed at www.stbeagan.org/racial-wealth-gap.

POLICY 7

THE G.I. BILL OF 1944

This was enacted to help World War II veterans adjust to civilian life by providing low-cost home mortgages, low-interest business loans, tuition assistance, and unemployment insurance. Unfortunately, black veterans were excluded from many of these benefits.

POLICY 8

OVERTURN OF "SEPARATE BUT EQUAL" DOCTRINE (1954 TO PRESENT DAY)

Although the "Separate but Equal" Doctrine was declared unconstitutional in 1954 (Brown vs. Board of Education), American schools are more racially segregated today than at any other time in the past four decades. Academic success is less likely in predominately low-income black neighborhoods. Black students are five times as likely to live in an area of concentrated poverty, with underfunded, understaffed, and overcrowded schools. This leaves black students with limited education, and many often settle for minimum-wage jobs that offer little hope of advancement or better pay.

POLICY 9

SUBPRIME LOANS (1970S TO PRESENT DAY)

Starting in the 1970s and continuing today, the private sector issued subprime loans (loans with higher interest rates) to black families almost exclusively—regardless of a family's income, education, or good credit history. As a result, blacks continue to unfairly pay more for homes of the same value as their white counterparts. This increases foreclosure rates among blacks, which also contributes to higher food insecurity levels.

Stewardship Message

One of the best gifts you can give someone Is thanking them for being part of your life.

Want to Talk?

JustFaith Small Groups: Want to Talk?

Starting in mid-January, our parish will be offering numerous sessions of "Want to Talk?:

Communication Tools for Divided Times" from JustFaith.

This program, for groups of 8-14, will be based on small group discussions, readings and videos. It will guide you in deepening your relationships while staying true to your values, whether you find yourself in a disagreement with a family member, interrupting racism in the workplace, facilitating political tensions in a pandemic, or working for systemic change around any justice issue.

The program draws upon the wisdom of non-violent communication, civil dialogue and grassroots organizing.

This is open to all, whether in the parish or not, regardless of whether you've taken any JustFaith programs in the past or not. Your only cost for this program is the two books we will be discussing (\$45).

Currently Taking Registrations for These Two Options:

OPTION 1

Tuesdays, 1:00 pm - 3:00 pm, beginning January 18, 2022, at STB. Facilitated by Dez Sobiech. For everyone's safety, participants must be vaccinated for Covid-19, and masks will be required. If Covid conditions improve and there is full consensus in the group, we may lift the mask requirement at some point. To register for the Tuesday afternoon session, please contact Dez at dezs@stbeagan.org or 651-683-9808, extension 109.

OPTION 2

Monday or Tuesday Evenings (TBD), beginning mid-January. Facilitated by Paul Mandell and Kadee Ruhland at the Ruhlands' home, 6:30pm-8:30pm. If interested in this session, contact Paul Mandell at paul.mandell@comcast.net.

For general questions about this or other JustFaith programs, contact Dez Sobiech at dezs@stbeagan.org.

Everyday Stewardship

The Light of the Moon

If you own a television that has been turned on at any point in the last month or so, chances are you've caught at least a scene or two of the 1946 classic film "It's a Wonderful Life."

If you're not familiar with the movie, it follows the life of George Bailey from childhood through adulthood. A dreamer by nature, George has big plans for himself that involve world exploration and adventure — but family and community obligations keep him tethered to the same spot on the map, leading an altogether ordinary life.

One of the most memorable scenes from that movie is of George dancing with his sweetheart Mary while they sing "Buffalo Gals — Won't you come out tonight/And dance by the light of the moon?"

That lyric always catches my ear. Of course, the moon doesn't have any light of its own. All the moon has is the ability to reflect the light that shines upon it.

The same holds for us, doesn't it? Our stewardship is purely a reflection of the grace granted to us by another. "Upon you the LORD shines," writes Isaiah, "and over you appears his glory." Every good action we will ever take begins in the mind of God. The fact that we have the honor of carrying it out on His behalf is a beautiful gift. It is God that makes our ordinary lives extraordinary.

In the end of the movie, George Bailey realizes that he had a far greater life because, instead of being the hero of his own story, he allowed himself to reflect goodness onto others.

Remember — the magi didn't chart their own course. They merely followed the star.

Tracy Earl Welliver, MTS

©LPi





Feed My Starving Children

Food Packing Event: Your Help Is Needed!

St. Thomas Becket Parish will be joining nine other churches and schools in packing meals for Feed My Starving Children at the South of the River Mobile Pack 2022 event. This year's packing location will be at Berean Baptist Church in Burnsville, 309 County Road 42, Burnsville. The goal of this project is to provide 1 million meals to hungry children around the world. It is also geared to build stronger connections and relationships within the South of the River Christian faith communities. The two available packing sessions are as follows:

Tuesday, January 25th: 7:00 – 9:00 pm or,
Thursday, January 27th: 7:00 – 9:00 pm

Our parish goal is to have 60 volunteers (30 per session) and to raise at least \$600 to help cover the cost of food being packed.

To sign up for one or both evenings, follow this link to our SignUp Genius: https://www.signupgenius.com/go/9040449a8a92ca5fa7-stbpacking

To donate toward this event, use this link: https://give.fmsc.org/give/369590/#!/donation/checkout

For more information or to sign up via e-mail, please contact: Tom Joseph at tom.joseph6866@gmail.com

Gospel Meditation

In his Apostolic Exhortation, The Joy of the Gospel, Pope Francis references a thought from Pope Benedict XVI: "Being a Christian is not the result of an ethical choice or a lofty idea, but the encounter with an event, a person, which gives life a new horizon and a decisive direction." Today we celebrate an encounter with the Person of Jesus Christ! This simple but holy event in time dramatically changes human life, pointing it toward a new horizon and giving it a decisive direction. This is a message and truth that is not meant to be shared with only a select few who qualify but with the entire world. Pope Francis continues saying, "Thanks solely to this encounter or renewed encounter with God's love, which blossoms into an enriching friendship, we are liberated from our narrowness and self-absorption. We become fully human when we become more than human, when we let God bring us beyond ourselves in order to attain the fullest truth of our being."

Look around at people. Where is life heading for them? What gives them direction? Even we who are people of faith can get distracted and lose our focus. God, in all of His fullness, is revealed in Jesus Christ and we can encounter Him! God is tangible, real, vulnerable, poor, and full of wonders, surprises, and opportunities. For those who are struggling and lost, today is a day of great joy. All they have to do is reach out and touch the truth of Christ. This presence is revealed in the poor, exploited, and vulnerable ones who cry out for compassion and love. But it is also found in the faithful ones who see in the Epiphany of God a liberation from structures and systems that hurt us, a narrowness of mind and heart that constricts us, and an absorption in our self-agenda that prevents us from seeing anything other than ourselves as important.

We have been given the charge of preaching this Good News. If only we could find a way to be more effective, it might stand a chance of doing what God intended it to do. There is always tomorrow and our memory of that bright new light that shone so brilliantly that Bethlehem night pointing us to truth and reminding us that we are loved.





Gospel

Isn't God amazing? He made all the stars and planets to move, so every night the sky looks a little different.

When God created the world, he planned exactly when the wise men would see the star. He wanted them to find Jesus.

Prayer

Dear God. thank you for making the planets and stars so the wise men could find Jesus.

wise men	king				Mary		
child born			star orship)	gifts dream		
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srta		_		S <u>—</u>			



Visit a planetarium to learn more about the star of Bethlehem





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